

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's disease is a form of dementia (loss of brain function). Alzheimer's disease gradually gets worse over time making it difficult to function in day-to-day activities.

The Effects of Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's causes nerve cell damage and tissue loss in the brain and as the disease worsens, the brain tissue starts to shrink and the ventricle (chambers in the brain) become enlarged affecting memory, thinking and behavior.

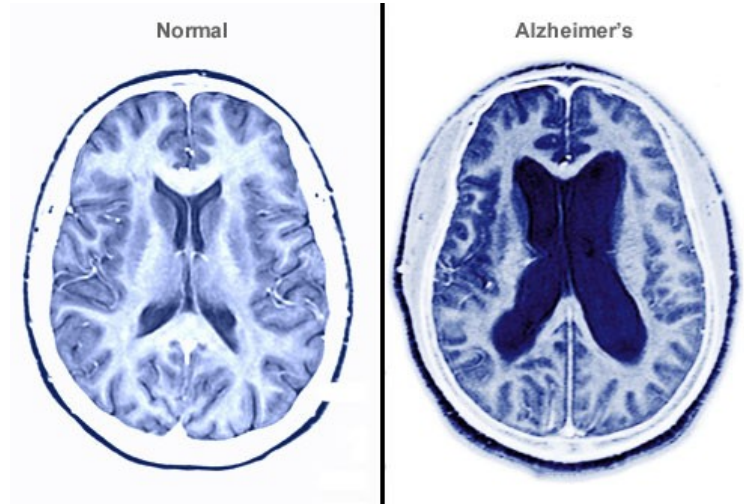
How is Alzheimer's Diagnosed?

Diagnosing Alzheimer's can be difficult, so there needs to be proof of memory and cognitive problems. Brain scans and neurological exams are used as a diagnostic tool. These two tools show sensory and motor variations as well as detect problems in the brain.

Signs/Symptoms of Alzheimer's

Some of the signs and symptoms are:

- Loss of short-term memory
- Inability to concentrate
- Incapable of learning new information
- Restlessness/disorientation/hostility



Treatment of Alzheimer's

Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's, there is medication that can help ease the symptoms. If medication is taken in the early stages, it can help maintain mental function and slow the progression of the disease down. You and your physician would need to determine what would be the best medication for you.

Controlling Alzheimer's

Studies are on-going in finding ways to control Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's patients need the help of family and friends to be there to listen and provide support. Calm and stable environments help to reduce behavioral problems.